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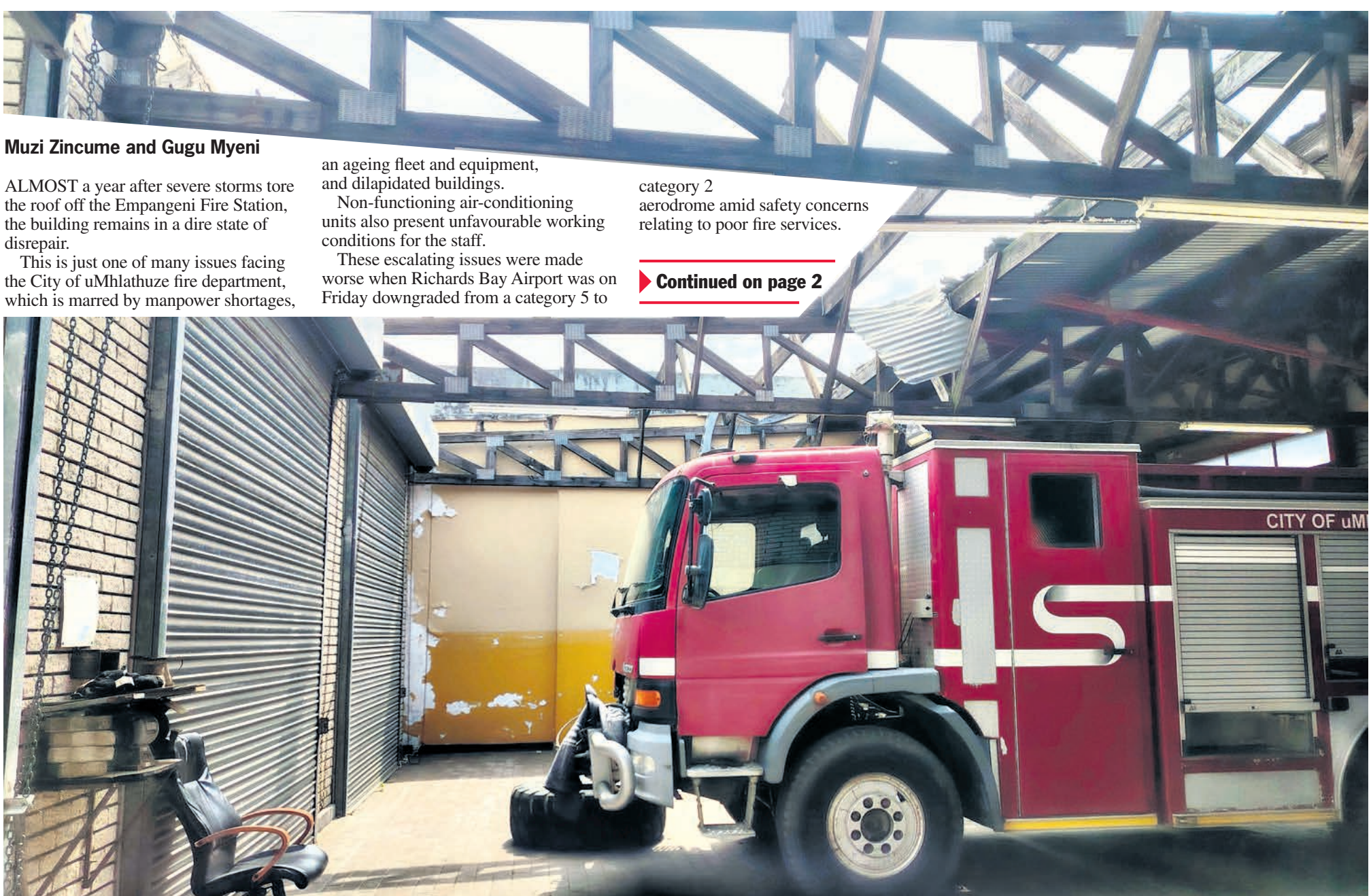
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- 2 Naval base relocation process outlined
- 3 Top cop in Bay to bolster crime fight
- 3 Six injured in Richards Bay multi-car pile-up
- 8 Worrying blow for the agricultural sector

# UNDER FIRE

Richards Bay flights grounded as city's emergency services fall short



**Muzi Zincume and Gugu Myeni**

ALMOST a year after severe storms tore the roof off the Empangeni Fire Station, the building remains in a dire state of disrepair. This is just one of many issues facing the City of uMhlatuze fire department, which is marred by manpower shortages,

an ageing fleet and equipment, and dilapidated buildings. Non-functioning air-conditioning units also present unfavourable working conditions for the staff. These escalating issues were made worse when Richards Bay Airport was on Friday downgraded from a category 5 to

category 2 aerodrome amid safety concerns relating to poor fire services.

**Continued on page 2**

Empangeni Fire Station's roof is yet to be replaced after being damaged in the April 2022 floods

**Renowned author launches book in Empangeni**



GREG MILLS  
**RICH STATE**

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